

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 CCO-00 PRS-01 AF-06 PM-04 INR-07

INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: MTANNER:MDL

APPROVED BY S/S-O: MTANNER

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O 011810Z JAN 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 000563 TOSEC 250135

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: JAN 1 AP STORIES--ANGOLA

1. (BOSTON) -- THE "CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR" TODAY REPORTED ABOUT 150 AMERICANS TOOK CIA-SPONSORED REFRESHER MILITARY TRAINING AT FT. BENNING, GEORGIA, LAST WEEK TO PREPARE TO JOIN SOME 300 AMERICANS ALREADY FIGHTING IN ANGOLA.

2. IN A DISPATCH FROM NEW YORK, STAFF CORRESPONDENT DAVID ANABLE SAID THE FT. BENNING GROUP WAS PART OF A LARGER BODY OF ABOUT 300 WHO WERE "READY TO GO AS SOON AS THE CIA CAN OBTAIN FURTHER FUNDS."

3. THE REPORT ATTRIBUTED THE INFORMATION TO "CONTACTS WITH SENIOR MERCENARY OFFICERS FAMILIAR WITH THE SITUATION BOTH IN ANGOLA AND THE UNITED STATES." THOSE SOURCES WERE DESCRIBED AS "CLOSE TO THE US CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY."

4. THE 300 MEN REPORTEDLY INCLUDE 15 SOUTH VIETNAMESE. THE AMERICAN MEMBERS WERE SAID TO BE ON INDEFINITE LEAVE FROM ARMY SPECIAL FORCES UNITS IN THIS COUNTRY OR IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PANAMA CANAL ZONE, OR TO BE RECENTLY DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

5. THE REPORT SAID A CIA SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER. AND STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN JOHN TRATTNER SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION TO SUPPORT REPORTS OF AMERICANS FIGHTING IN ANGOLA.

6. (WASHINGTON) -- THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE CIA TODAY DENIED A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORT THAT ABOUT 150 AMERICANS TOOK CIA-SPONSORED REFRESHER MILITARY TRAINING PREPARATORY TO GOING TO FIGHT IN ANGOLA.

7. WHITE HOUSE DEPUTY NEWS SECRETARY JOHN CARLSON SAID: "THE STORY IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION." THE CIA SPOKESMAN SAID "THE TOTAL STORY IS NONSENSE."

8. SPOKESMEN FOR THE STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS SAID THEY "HAVE NOTHING ON IT."

9. THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THE AMERICANS TOOK THE REFRESHER COURSE AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, PREPARING TO JOIN ABOUT 300 AMERICANS ALREADY FIGHTING IN ANGOLA. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, MILITARY TRAINING, INTERVENTION, MAGAZINES, ALLEGATIONS, MERCENARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE000563
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: MTANNER:MDL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750452-0584
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760191/aaaadcua.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAN 1 AP STORIES--ANGOLA
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PINS, US, AO, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, CIA
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006